



**Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Polsky Exchange North – Jackson Park Room**

Present: S. Karim, A. Marks, C. Newsome, J. Nurss, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey, N. Stanek

Absent(excused): G. Robnett and E. Thompson

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Cecilia Butler (WPAC), Margarite Richardson (SECC Intern)

A quorum being present, Chair Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:07am.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the July 23rd meeting were accepted as circulated. The minutes for the May 29, 2024, meeting was accepted with the necessary corrections.

Questions and Comments from Guests:

None present

SSA Financials – Commissioner Stanek, Treasurer

Financials were accepted as circulated and presented

- Commissioner Stanek would like to streamline the financials as the current financials as presented can be confusing. Prefers utilizing the Budget Tracker for financial reporting for a snapshot of the current expenses as it is the duty of the Commissioners to oversee the spending of the funds. If someone has questions regarding a particular expenditure line, they may contact her or the program manager for an explanation. Commissioner Robnett expressed to Chair Rumsey his desire to be a member of the Finance Committee.
- Estimates a carryover of \$40k-\$60k and this amount should be a part of the workplan, so the program doesn't rely on the service provider to cover expenses.



- Per the guidance of the service provider finance committee, SSA 61 expenses are booked into Quickbooks when received, not paid. Due to SECC line-item expense needs to be broken out by the amount and category.
- Audit update – Draft of SSA 61 2023 audit still in process due to some discrepancies which the City has offered to review and provide an explanation and expected to be available for review by the close of the month. Commissioners would review and vote on approval at the September meeting.
- Accounting RFP – The RFP has been posted on the website and other networks. This is a dual process as the firm selected will be working with the service provider as well. The service provider has increased their budget for financial services. A major requirement is that the firms have experience with municipal agencies. The RFP process closes at the end of the month.
- Commissioner Karim asked for clarification on Category 2.0-Public Way Aesthetics and Landscaping. Expressed that although he wasn't a member of the board at the time the contract was presented/voted on, he feels the overall amount of the contract is high due to the services rendered.

Program Committee Report – Commissioner Rogel, Chair

- **Viaduct Project:**

Over 100 submissions were received of those the 3 judges/jurors chose 19 projects. The projects were shared with the commissioners and 6 responded. A tally was taken with the following results:

3 – not liked

5 – 50% or more didn't like

Eight of the 19 submissions were not liked by the commissioners. It appears the artwork is more suited for a gallery, than a public walking space. The jury was polled again to see if there may be other artwork to be reviewed with a different focus in mind.

Chair Rumsey suggests a meeting with CPAG to get some direction on the matter. Commissioner Stanek questioned how the jurors were instructed on the project. Chair Rumsey suggested additional review of the RFP for better understanding. Commissioner Nurss had questions about the lighting detail for the area. If the area is well-lit people would stop studying/see the art, if not they will just walk by. Additional comments can be sent to the program manager. Chair Rumsey



suggested that an in-person meeting with the program manager and program committee chair to discuss the matter.

- Lake Park Mural:
5 commissioners responded to the poll and the response was lukewarm. Commissioner Rogel suggests moving forward on the project due to time constraints and recommends the second design submission. Presented by committee with the following results:
 - 5 approved
 - 1 opposed
 - 0 abstained

Rod Sawyer, Program Manager informed the commissioners SSA 61 received \$253,801 in funds.

Chairman Updates – G. Rumsey

Reported there is graffiti on the 53rd Street viaduct artwork as well as several locations throughout the neighborhood. Commissioner Karim inquired how the newly installed art panels will be maintained should this occur after installation. He was informed that the new art panels would be cleanable due to the type of material used.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Marks shared that Roti Mediterranean restaurant has filed for bankruptcy. Not sure at this juncture how that would impact the 53rd street location.

The next meeting is September 24th at 11am. A special meeting may be called to review the 2023 audit.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, SECC